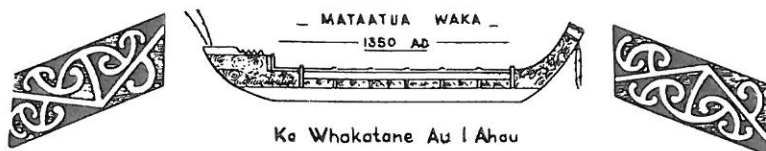


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VOLKNER'S LETTERS TO GOVERNOR GREY.

In 1959, the Society published - probably for the first time - the contents of seven letters addressed to Sir George Grey by Rev.C.S.Volkner concerning the activities of local and East Coast Maoris who were preparing to align themselves with the Kingite Maoris then being sorely pressed by the British troops in the Waikato. The originals are in the possession of National Archives, Wellington, and the following are Nos.6 & 7 of the series. Ed.,

Opotiki, February 16, 1864.

Sir, - As there is no Government agent in my district to inform you of the movements of the natives here, I think I should be wanting in my duty if I did not make known to you what happens around me relating to the present disturbed state of the natives. But as I have reason to fear that it would interfere with my future usefulness in the cause in which I am engaged if it were publicly known that I gave such information to you, I therefore humbly but earnestly request your Excellency to receive my accompanying letters as private communications to yourself, and not publish my name or abode with any information you wish to make use of. My brother-in-law, Rev.T.Lanfear, had some unpleasantness with his natives because his name was published with some information he gave respecting them. And I know that, besides the people who sail in the coasting vessels, there are agents among the natives who snatch up everything that can turned against English missionaries, and use every opportunity to raise the natives' suspicion against us.

I am, Your Excellency's most obedient servant.

C.S.VOLKNER.

Opotiki, February 26, 1864.

Sir, -....Whilst I write this, a party of 20 men from Kawhia have come here on their way to the east to get powder. This is the third party from Kawhia who have come through here for that purpose during the last six months. It is my humble opinion that it would be advisable strictly to blockade, if not the whole coast of the Bay of Plenty, at least places like this where they are so unanimous in their opposition to Government and have no assessor [here].

Your Excellency will find some of my letters long after date. The reason is that for the last two months I have been unable to send either by land or by sea, for no one will move. I wrote to Mr Smith, civil commissioner at Maketu, by opportunity, informing him there were letters there for you. I fear my letter did not reach him as he has never sent for the letters. From the letters of the native assessors you will see that they are "kati"<sup>2</sup> as well as ourselves, so we would have no communication with them. (Unsigned).

1. Volkner married Miss Emma Lanfear. 2. Kati = blockade. Through their interception of his letters, the local Maoris became aware of Volkner's activities, and this also was used as an excuse for murdering him. Ed.,